

**HB 5535 AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY OF NONRESIDENTS TO VOTE AT TOWN MEETINGS OR REFERENDA.**

Rep. Sharkey, Sen. Coleman, Members of the Planning and Development Committee,  
My name is John Drabik from East Lyme and this testimony is being submitted on HB  
5535 AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY OF NONRESIDENTS TO VOTE AT TOWN  
MEETINGS OR REFERENDA.

*My concern here is for the basic "right to vote".*

*Connecting a taxpayers participation in a referenda to a dollar amount sounds like the little guy doesnt count. Each vote, whether the assessment is the present \$1000 or the proposed \$25,000 still amounts to just one vote.*

*By raising the amount your sending a message that a taxpayers participation has a value. Meaning a higher assessed taxpayers vote means more the a lower one. And a taxpayer is a taxpayer, whether resident or non resident and deserves equal say.*

*This proposed bill could possibly be construed as "taxation with financially limited representation. I consider taxpayers rights sacred, as that his vote is his representation. Raising that amount seems exclusionary. Leave it at \$1000 or consider lowering it to \$10.00*

Thank you  
John H. Drabik  
East Lyme, CT.